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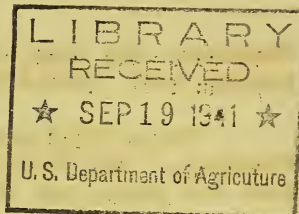
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service

Washington, D. C.

LABELING FLY SPRAYS FOR ANIMALS



Fly sprays for animals are subject to the provisions of the Federal Insecticide Act if shipped in interstate commerce, exported from or imported into the United States, or sold in the District of Columbia or any territory of the United States. This act is explicit in the requirement that the labeling of any articles within its purview shall not be false or misleading in any particular. The responsibility under the law for all labeling statements rests with the manufacturer or shipper.

Sprays for Killing Flies:- In order to destroy flies with a spray the material must be atomized in a fine mist so that the flies will be enveloped in it. There is no known substance that, when applied to animals, will kill flies lighting on the treated animals. Furthermore, it cannot be truthfully claimed that the use of even a killing fly spray will effectively control flies in stables unless the breeding places of the flies are also treated. Therefore, any claims for the control of flies in stables or similar places should include directions for use of the spray so as to envelop the insects in the mist and for the treatment or removal of their breeding places.

Sprays as Fly Repellents:- The value of fly sprays as repellents is limited. Experiments conducted by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of this Department have shown that certain materials applied as sprays to animals have temporary repellent properties against stable and horn flies, but none has been found that is effective against other species of flies, such as horse flies, bot flies, grub flies, and warble flies which so commonly attack and annoy livestock. Repellency claims should therefore be limited to those for the particular varieties of flies against which the product is known to be effective. Claims for repellent action against "flies" without qualification constitute misbranding under the act.

Preparations for the Screw Worm Fly:- Fly sprays that consist essentially of mineral oil will not repel screw worm flies. Pine-tar oil (of a specific gravity 1.065 and 1.085) applied over wounds, cuts, scratches, or abrasions of animals will prevent screw worm flies from depositing eggs therein so long as the covering is maintained. Benzol applied in wounds which have already become infested with screw worms is effective in killing the worms. While caustic or irritating substances may kill screw worms in wounds, they should not be used for this purpose since they damage healthy tissue and thereby create a favorable environment for further screw worm infestation or may even cause general poisoning of the treated animal.

Poisonous Properties of Fly Sprays:- Oils in general are injurious to animals and, particularly if heavily applied, may do more damage than good.

Therefore, the time, frequency, and manner of application, as well as amount of product used, should be specified.

Unqualified statements to the effect that oils are "safe," "non-poisonous," "harmless," and "will not injure the hair or hide of animals" are not generally true and should not be made.

Tainting the Milk and Effect on Milk Production:- An unqualified assertion that a given product will not taint the milk is always questionable because this can be truthfully said of few, if any, fly sprays which are on the market, unless they are very carefully used. The directions should include a warning to spray long enough before milking to allow the spray to settle, to keep the spray away from milk or milk utensils, and to wash the udder and teats with warm water and soap before milking.

No statement which would lead a purchaser to believe that the use of a preparation will increase milk production or butterfat above the normal yield should be made. The fact that individual cases may be cited where increases were apparent does not justify the general conclusion that similar results will be obtained regardless of conditions. In fact, it has been shown that under some conditions milk production has decreased following treatments with oil sprays.

Disinfectant Claims:- Mineral oils are not disinfectants and oils in general are not recognized as satisfactory disinfectants. Therefore, claims for disinfectant value of fly sprays should not be made unless the type of oil and method of application are such that disinfection will be accomplished under all conditions for which it is so recommended.

Disease Prevention Claims:- Representations that fly sprays will prevent insect-borne diseases, - as, for example, "Will drive away flies and thus prevent infectious diseases," - are objectionable and unwarranted because they imply a promise of benefit in preventing the spread of disease which fly sprays cannot be relied upon to fulfil.

Ingredient Statement:- The Insecticide Act requires that any preparation containing an inert ingredient must bear on its label a statement of the name and percentage amount of each and every such inert ingredient and the fact that they are inert, or, in lieu of this, a statement of the name and percentage amount of each and every active ingredient and the total percentage of inert ingredients. If the preparation consists entirely of active ingredients, no statement regarding the ingredients is required. However, such claims as "Active Ingredients 100%" and "Contains No Inert Ingredients" are unobjectionable, provided, of course, the product is composed entirely of active ingredients. The statement "100% active" is objectionable as it may be taken to imply that a spray is 100 percent effective.

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C. C. McDonnell,
In Charge, Insecticide Division

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